



MARSHAL MATTERS

MARCH 2020 EDITION

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Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continues to work closely with the Governor's office, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to provide support and assistance during the COVID19 statewide response. OSFM office and field staff have been directed to follow guidance and recommendations from the IDPH and CDC to help keep them safe and healthy. OSFM staff's health and safety is of upmost importance. Plans are in place to help keep the agency operational and staff safe during the COVID19 pandemic.

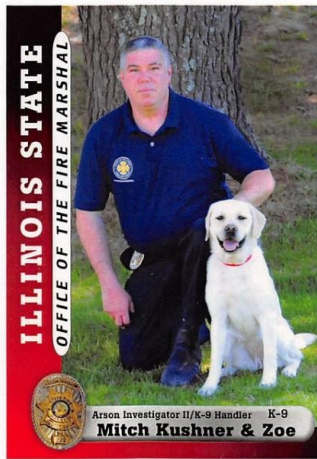
OSFM has teamed up with the Governor, IDPH, IEMA, Fire Service Agencies and MABAS to protect the health and safety of our first responders. We are working hard to make sure all first responders are aware of and follow best practice guidelines and exposure control methods. We are also working to ensure that proper PPE is available and that first responders are considered a priority. While you are on the front lines helping to combat the spread of COVID-19, you can be confident that all necessary steps are being taken to help you continue responding safely and effectively.

The OSFM is requesting that all fire departments and EMS services notify our office of any department members currently on quarantine due to COVID-19 and especially any firefighters that have tested positive for COVID-19. It is important that we track these numbers in order to ensure mutual aid assistance and other resources for affected departments as this crisis continues. Your cooperation will help keep fire protection at an effective level across the state. Please send these reports to me directly at Matt.Perez@illinois.gov. Please continue to follow IDPH and CDC guidelines that have been sent out previously. Stay safe and thank you for your cooperation.

OSFM division managers continue to remain in constant contact with staff to ensure that the service people have come to expect from the agency continues. At this time, OSFM field staff are only conducting outdoor inspections where proper social distancing protocols can be followed. Healthcare facilities are taking top priority at this time. Indoor inspections are being prioritized and will be addressed once full field staff activities resume. Make sure to visit our website www.sfm.illinois.gov, as updates will be posted in the current focus section or by speaking with your contact in the proper division. OSFM divisions continue to process daily requests as staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. All certification testing has been postponed until further notice. The Personnel Standards and Education Division continues to provide updates through the firefighter web access portal which can also be found on our website.

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Employee Spotlight



Mitch Kushner

Arson Division

Where are you originally from? Chicago (Northside)

Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other.....Wife is Joanne, Daughter Jessica and Son Steven

Favorite food(s)? Steak Tacos on flour tortillas, Pizza and Diet Mt. Dew

Hobbies? Collect antique fire memorabilia, collect Three Stooges and Smokey Bear items

What's your favorite movie or book? Back to School, Fast Times at Ridgemont High, Animal House and any Rodney Dangerfield movie

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? 50's 60's and 70's classic rock and roll

What did you want to be when you were a kid? Firefighter since age 4 years

What's your favorite part of the job? I know this is going to sound canned, but going to a fire and or explosion and figuring out what happened and try to prevent it from happening again. Serving the People of the Great State of Illinois.

What's something unique about you? I don't like anything to do with fishing or eating fish. I like my steaks and hamburgers well, well, well done.

Where is your favorite place to vacation? Anywhere in the United States

Where is your bucket list destination? Heaven

Medal of Honor Ceremony and Fallen Firefighter Memorial

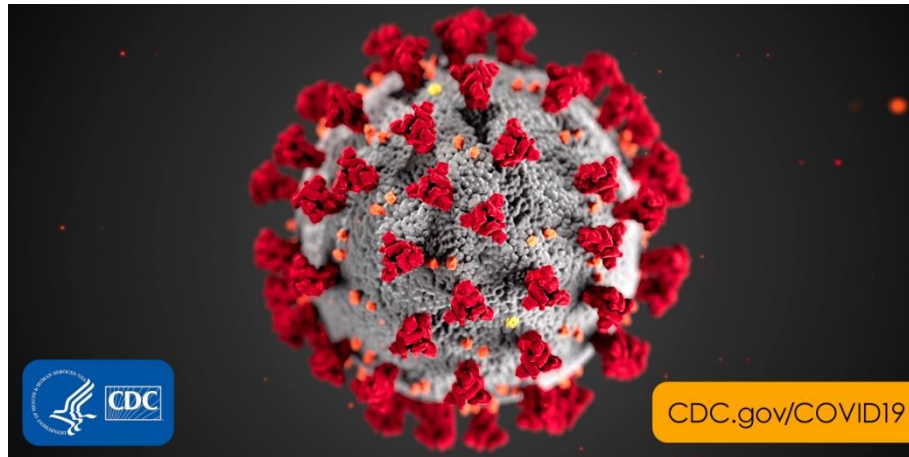


After much consideration, the Medal of Honor Ceremony that was scheduled for May 12, 2020 has been canceled.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial has been postponed and OSFM will announce a new date for this program soon.



COVID-19 First Responder Guidance



The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has issued updated guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP'S) for COVID-19. This guidance applies to all first responders, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, and emergency management officials, who anticipate close contact with persons with confirmed or possible COVID-19 in the course of work.

EMS play a vital role in responding to requests for assistance, triaging patients, and providing emergency medical treatment and transport for ill persons.

However, unlike patient care in the controlled environment of a healthcare facility, care and transports by EMS present unique challenges because of the nature of the setting, enclosed space during transport, frequent need for rapid medical decision-making, interventions with limited information, and varying range of patient acuity and jurisdictional resources.

When preparing for and responding to patients with confirmed or possible coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), close coordination and effective communications are important among 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's)- commonly known as 911 call centers, the EMS system, healthcare facilities, and the public health system. Each PSAP and EMS system should seek the involvement of an EMS medical director to provide appropriate medical oversight. For the purposes of this guidance, "EMS Clinician" means prehospital EMS and medical first responders. When COVID-19 is suspected in a patient needing emergency transport, prehospital care providers and healthcare facilities should be notified in advance that they may be caring for, transporting, or receiving a patient who may have COVID-19 infection.

Other guidance documents can be found at IDPH Website: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

CDC First Responders Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

OSFM Helping with COVID-19 Response



OSFM Arson Division Special Agent Kushner helped escort a MABAS convoy shuttling a supply of PPE from Chicago to Bloomington. This PPE was bound for healthcare workers in central Illinois. OSFM continues to stand ready to help in the response to the spread of COVID19 in Illinois. #Together One Team! One Fight!



#Together One Team! One Fight!

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, MABAS, Illinois Firefighters Association, Illinois Fire Service Institute and Associated Fire Fighters Association of Illinois came together to show unity amongst the fire service community during this unprecedented time. All these groups came together to record a unified message thanking all the first responders for their hard work and encouraging safety. The message can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyqGnE6L2AM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR38DsxtsNEju6cqOhbjwzoy90VHTv3LLcEVqzXykAV-W60ncH7Mif7ggc>

Home Fire Safety Tips

How to make a
Home Fire Escape Plan

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™
NFPA® — The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922

Visit Sparky.org for more activities!

- ☐ Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- ☐ Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- ☐ All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- ☐ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- ☐ Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- ☐ Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- ☐ Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- ☐ Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- ☐ Practice your home fire drill!
- ☐ Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

Sample Escape Plan

Kids 1st FLOOR 2nd FLOOR



As the Stay-At-Home order continues, now is a great time to sit down and review your fire escape plan!

Hold a family meeting. If your family doesn't have a plan in writing, create one and make sure your kids are involved with that plan.

Go through the house and identify two exits from each room. Identify the escape routes out of your home and make sure those routes are clear of any obstructions.

Identify a meeting place outside the home. A tree, a mailbox, a spot on the road. Show your kids where this spot is located and explain why it's important to go straight there.

Go through your home and test all smoke and CO alarms to make sure they are working.

Hold a fire drill to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of a fire. Practice makes perfect!

Use this time to create a fire-safe home to not only protect you, but to help protect first responders and your community.

Cooking Safety during Stay-At-Home Order

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ❗ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ❗ Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



REMINDER: People are cooking at home more frequently during the stay-at-home order, cooking safety needs to be a top priority. As kids and other family members are around the kitchen creating more distractions, make sure to stay aware when cooking as the leading cause of fires in the kitchen are due to unattended cooking.

Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles and Apparatus

There has possibly never been a greater need for decontamination of EMS rigs and Fire apparatus than there is now. COVID-19 is virulent, easily transmitted, and seems to survive for long periods on surfaces. Decontamination practices need to be thorough, but they also need to be safe. For CDC guidance on cleaning practices for EMS personnel and First responders, go to this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>), then scroll down to Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting a PUI or Patient with Confirmed COVID-19. For guidance to help with choosing the proper cleaning products to use, EPA has a list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19 virus contamination: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

Work safely when you're cleaning up a rig or apparatus after a call. Use cleaning products with adequate ventilation, avoid products that produce flammable vapors, never mix bleach products with ammonia products, and always follow manufacturer's instructions. Be safe before, during and after the call. Your coworkers, your patients, your community and your family are all counting on you.



DO NOT MIX THESE CLEANING PRODUCTS

BLEACH + VINEGAR

Bleach and vinegar mixture produces chlorine gas, which can cause coughing, breathing problems, burning and watery eyes.



BLEACH + AMMONIA

Bleach and ammonia produce a toxic gas called chloramine. It causes shortness of breath and chest pain.



BLEACH + RUBBING ALCOHOL

Bleach and rubbing alcohol makes chloroform, which is highly toxic.



HYDROGEN PEROXIDE + VINEGAR

This combination makes peracetic/peroxyacetic acid, which can be highly corrosive



Guidance for Cleaning PPE and Social Distancing

COVID-19 PPE DECONTAMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

QUICK-REFERENCE INFOGRAPHIC

N95/P100 FFR
 - Extend Operational Life (do not store in plastic containers)
 - Reuse By Same Operator following daily inspection
 - Decon with bleach solution (1:6 ratio, bleach:H₂O, soak 5min, rinse - dry over night)
 - Replace when breathing resistance is uncomfortable



SCBA APR/PAPR
 - Reuse, by same operator, canisters (wipe down with disinfectant, DO NOT SPRAY)
 - Store in humidity free area when not in use
 - Wash all respirators per manufacturer instructions

FACE/EYEWEAR
 - Use goggles rated D3 or D5 per ANSI Z87.1
 - Preference should be goggles over face shields/safety glasses
 - Wash eyewear and use disinfectant
 - Clean and disinfect reusable eyewear between patients



MEDICAL GLOVES
 - Wear medical grade or NFPA 1999 exam gloves
 - Dispose of gloves after use
 - Gloves can be wiped or rinsed with alcohol during use
 - Always practice hand cleaning/sanitizing

CLOTHING
 - Use barrier clothing over work uniform
 - Extended contact: use clothes that meet ASTM F1671 (e.g., EUG - NFPA 1999)
 - Wash clothes at warmest temp allowed
 - Use EPA-approved laundry sanitizer



STRUCTURAL & WILDLAND PPE
 - Only use if no other PPE is available
 - Use specialized cleaning post-exposure with wash temp of 140°F and apply verified sanitization process (e.g., EPA-approved laundry sanitizer)



REMEMBER:

- Limit number of responders exposed
- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly
- Change/laundry clothes quickly after exposure
- Clean equipment and surfaces after every call
- Maintain distancing when possible



SCAN TO STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR FIRE & EMS FROM THE IAFC:

FIRE HOUSE SOCIAL DISTANCING 101

ONLY YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN YOUR FIRE STATION!



Line up on the apparatus floor.



Eat in shifts.



Wash bedding often.



Exercise in shifts.



Clean after each use.

"HIGH TOUCH SURFACES" HANDLES, RADIOS, PHONES, MDC, TABLES, CHAIRS, REMOTE CONTROLS, REFRIGERATORS, FAUCETS, LIGHT SWITCHES, ETC. THESE SURFACES **MUST** BE CONTINUALLY CLEANED WITH DEPARTMENT PROVIDED PRODUCTS.



IFSI Update to 2020 Summer Events

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
11 Gerty Drive,
Champaign, IL 61820
217-333-3800
fsi.illinois.edu



2020 SUMMER EVENT UPDATE:

Communities and First Responders Across Illinois:

As all of us deal with the COVID-19 response, personally and professionally, I wanted to provide Illinois citizens and first responders with a status update on this year's annual events---IFSI Fire College (4-7 June 2020) and Explorer Cadet Fire School (11-14 June 2020).

96th Annual Fire College (4-7 June 2020). I have decided to POSTPONE this event until September 2020 (exact date and format remains TBD). Fire College is a statutorily mandated training event and it is a singularly important training opportunity for 300+ firefighters from across IL every year. For those reasons, I want to avoid canceling Fire College if at all possible. IFSI will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation as we plan for a September 2020 delivery of the important event. We will make adjustments as they are needed and prudent.

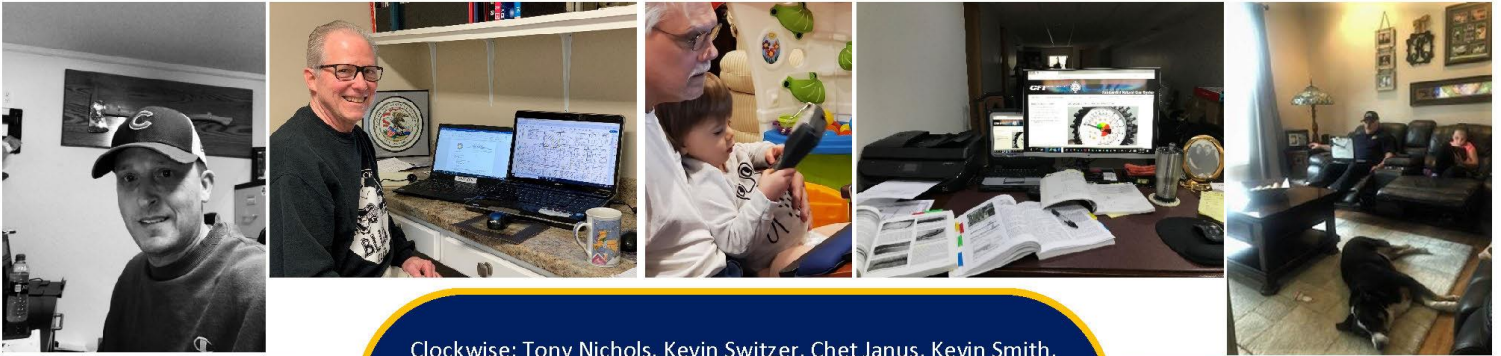
Explorer Cadet Fire School (11-14 June 2020). I have decided to CANCEL this event. While this event is important to the Illinois fire service (familiarizing and training 100s of young people about the fire service profession), considering family summer schedules and fall 2020 student school schedules, postponing this event in the hopes of executing it later in 2020 was not an option.

Even with the COVID-19 restrictions, IFSI continues to fulfill our mission, "Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research", in creative ways while simultaneously planning to be able to return to full operational capacity when called upon to do so.

Thank you.

s/f
rpm
Royal P. Mortenson
Colonel USMC (Ret.)
Director
Illinois Fire Service Institute
University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign

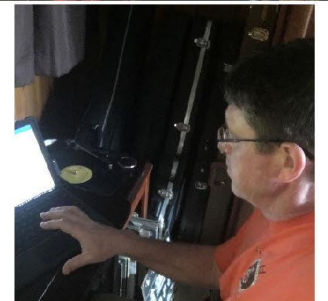
The latest updates to the Illinois Fire Service Institute's training schedule can be found by visiting their website: www.fsi.illinois.edu or on Facebook and Twitter.

OSFM Staff Continues to Work from Home Offices

Clockwise: Tony Nichols, Kevin Switzer, Chet Janus, Kevin Smith, Bob Kowalski, Chris Bednarek, Ed Jancauskas, Jeff Miller, John Benz, Andrea Klees, Michael Douglas, Randy Carben, Dan Starks, Kensie Proctor



#OSFM Together



OSFM Staff Continues to Work from Home Offices

OSFM Staff Training

OSFM Division Managers meet at the OSFM Springfield headquarters for training from March 3rd thru 5th. Topics ranged from divisional updates, leadership training, mental health and self-help awareness, FMLA, outside resources available from other agencies and other OSFM procedures.

All staff members had the opportunity to listen to The Self-Help Path presentation. This provided an inspirational message, while also providing some tips to help deal with stress and let people know that it's okay to reach out for help if you need it.

This week provided a chance for OSFM Divisions to come together, learn and build upon the already strong team and family environment in the agency.



Jimmi Moore-IFSI: Leadership Development and Decision Making



Fire Marshal Perez, Courtney O'Connel -CMS and Dina Ninfo-CMS FMLA Experts



Fire Marshal Perez and Sara Gura-The Self-Help Path



Terry Brown- "King of the North"

Morris AHJ Training

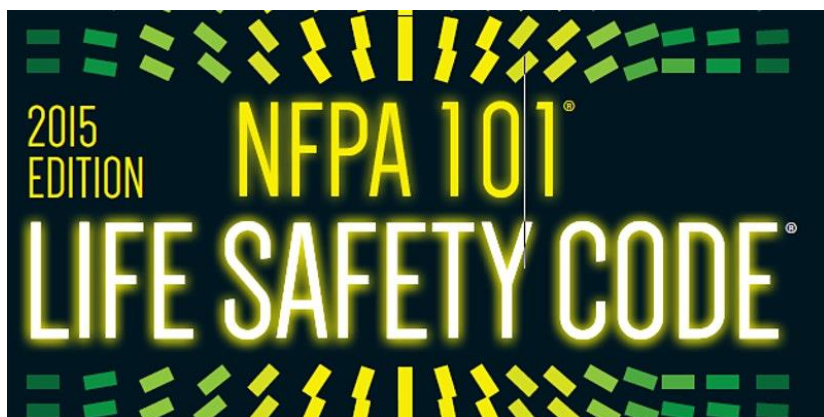


OSFM has adopted the NFPA 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code which took effect on January 1st. OSFM conducted a Life Safety Code training class in Morris on March 13th. Attendees learned about the changes from the 2000 edition to the 2015 edition and were provided a new code book. This serves as the state's minimum fire safety standard.

Watch OSFM's website and social media for future classes.

More information about the update to 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code can be found here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Life-Safety->



OSFM Shout Out/Kudos

On Thursday February 20, 2020, I was on my way to assist one of my inspectors with an inspection. During the drive at around 9:30 am, I received a phone call from my wife, and she shared some disheartening news. I was completely distraught, so much so, that I had to pull over on the side of the highway. I began to cry when I noticed another vehicle pull up behind me. The gentleman in the car got out and approached my vehicle. I rolled down the window and he asked if I was ok. I told him yes however, he wasn't convinced by my crying voice and obvious tears. He made it very clear that I was his brother, and he also worked for the Fire Marshal's office in the Arson Division. He wanted to make certain that I was not in any harm, danger or pain. I ensured him that everything was good and that I would be all right in a few minutes. He was very persistent in making sure I was ok, even offering to get in the car and talk with me. I finally convinced him that I was all right and would be heading back on the road. I got myself together and proceeded to the inspection. I couldn't help but think of the kind, caring and considerate gesture of my colleague, my brother. I wish I had at least remembered his name so that I could send him a sincere thank you.

On my way back from the inspection, which was about 1:15 pm, I could not stop thinking about "my brother". I was trying to figure out a way to find him, but I had forgotten his name. My plan was to contact Terry Ooms, Division Manager of Arson, and ask for his assistance in finding this gentleman. Then, to my surprise, I, for the second time today, noticed another State of Illinois Fire Marshal vehicle. I never would have imagined in a million years that it would be the same gentleman that had so graciously approached me earlier that morning. I pulled alongside him and gesture for him to pull over. We pulled over and he again wanted to make sure that everything was ok. I immediately went in for the hug because a handshake would not have expressed my true and sincere gratitude for him. I explained to him that I had received some bad news and that was the origin of my disposition when he encountered me. He expressed his relief knowing that I was doing better. I thanked him for his concern, he gave me his business card and we went our separate ways.

While we live in very uncertain times, I must say it's refreshing to know that people do care as Mr. Mitchell Kushner clearly demonstrated. What if I had been experiencing a serious medical issue, or something even worse? It gives me hope for humanity knowing that people like Mr. Kushner exist. I am sincerely grateful and appreciative for his actions and I will never forget it. Thank you again, Mitchell, for your thoughtfulness, consideration, care and concern – I appreciate you!

Terry Brown – Fire Prevention Division



Kids' Corner

My Fire Inspection Checklist


Become an official Safety Inspector!

Make sure your home is safe and inspect for risks. Ask a grown-up for help.

If the item on your list is **SAFE**, color the circle next to it **GREEN**.

If the item on your list is **UNSAFE**, color the circle next to it **RED**.

If you are **NOT SURE** if item on the list is safe, color the circle **YELLOW**.


 Electrical cords are in good condition (not damaged).


 The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build-up).

 Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets.


 A grown-up always stays in the kitchen whenever food is cooking on the stovetop.


 All smoke alarms work when tested by a grown-up.

 All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas).


 All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible.

 Portable space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn.

 Curtains and other things that can burn are away from the stovetop.

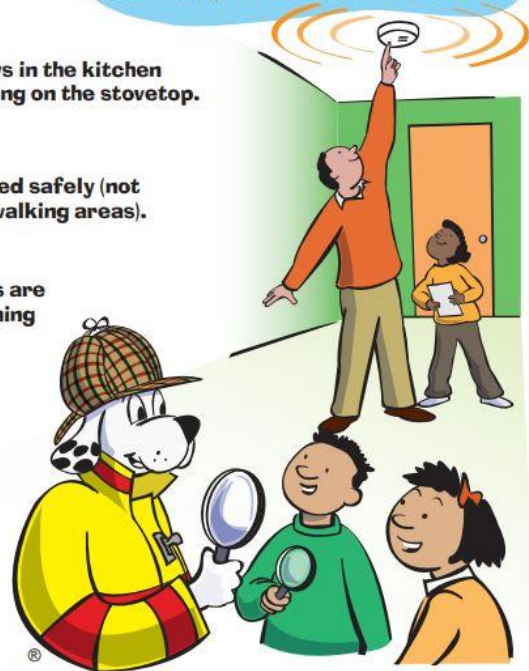
 The furnace has been inspected in the past year.

 Portable space heaters are off whenever a grown-up leaves the room and goes to sleep.

 The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year.

If any of your circles are **YELLOW** or **RED**, ask a grown-up to make it safe.

Parent Signature: _____



Check out Sparky the Fire Dog® at sparky.org
Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA.

Kids' Corner

See if you can find: ☐ a snake, ☐ bat, ☐ hot dog, ☐ kite, ☐ comb, ☐ zipper, ☐ diamond ring, ☐ sneaker,
☐ ice cream cone, ☐ chess pawn, ☐ palette, ☐ mushroom, ☐ pancakes, ☐ bowling pin, ☐ sand shovel,
☐ coffee pot, ☐ battery, ☐ fried egg, ☐ football, ☐ hockey stick

Snake Alarm Safety Hidden Pics

Sparky says... "Hear the BEEP where you sleep!"

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Have a working smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- Have a grown-up test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Have a home fire escape plan with two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.

CHECK OUT **SPARKY.ORG** FOR MORE FUN!